

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

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R 071523Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1617

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SP DA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SPANISH HARASSMENT OF DANISH SHIPS

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REF A. COPENHAGEN 2846 B. COPENHAGEN 2817

SUMMARY: THE DETENTION OF DANISH FLAG VESSELS IN SPAIN PROVOKED A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS HERE, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN SAID THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT "CIVILIZED". ON THE OTHER HAND, MORE REASONED REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN SPAIN HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR IN THE DANISH PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1) OVER THE WEEKEND, SPANISH AUTHORITIES ALLEGEDLY BEGAN HARASSMENT OF THREE SMALL DANISH VESSELS BY DELAYING AND PREVENTING THEIR DEPARTURE FROM SPANISH HARBORS. THE DANES REGARD THE SPANISH ACTION AS RETALIATION FOR DANISH CONDEMNATION OF THE EXECUTIONS. THE SPANIARDS, ACCORDING TO THE DANISH PRESS, ATTRIBUTED THE DETENTION OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE SHIPS TO MISCONDUCT ON THE PART OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE CREW WHICH RESULTED IN INJURIES AND DAMAGES. OTHER VESSELS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING HELD TO DETERMINE THEIR SEAWORTHINESS.

2) ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE DANISH EMBASSY IN MADRID DELIVERED A NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, REQUESTING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE SHIPS AND "UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCES" THAT THE INCIDENT DOES NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.

3) IN SPEAKING TO THE PRESS HERE, FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN REPORTEDLY ADDED "THE SPANISH" ACTION CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING THE LAST FEW DAYS: IT IS NOT A CIVILIZED GOVERNMENT...."

4) POLITIKEN (LEFT OF CENTER) QUOTED A "SPOKESMAN FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT" WHO DENOUNCED ANDERSEN FOR CALLING THE SPANIARDS "BARBARIANS" "A TERM HE SHOULD HAVE APPLIED TO HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN, THE SEAMEN INVOLVED". IN THE OPINION OF THE COPENHAGEN FINANCIAL DAILY, BORSEN, IT WAS "TOO BAD THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR K.B. ANDERSEN TO SHUT UP - RETROACTIVELY".

5) COMMENT: AFTER THE SHARP REACTIONS HERE TO THE SPANISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIONS, MORE REASONED VOICES HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE PRESS, AMONG THEM DENMARK'S MOST RESPECTED CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER, ALF ROSS, THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN POUL SCHLUTER. THE THRUST OF THESE COMMENTS IS THAT IT IS IRRATIONAL FOR THE DANES TO FOCUS THEIR CONDEMNATION ON THE ADMITTEDLY TRAGIC EVENTS IN SPAIN WHILE ACQUIESCING IN THE MORE WIDESPREAD BRUTALITY AND SERIOUS REPRESSION THAT IS THE EVERYDAY PRACTICE OF REGIMES ELSEWHERE IN THE

WORLD.
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